

that are the embryos of hurricanes first form. When the Sahel is wetter, Dr. Gray found, more embryos form. This year, the Sahel is wet.

Another factor is the phenomenon known as El Nino, the huge pool of warm water that develops every two to seven years in the eastern tropical Pacific, changing weather patterns around the world. When it is in place, high-level winds blowing from the west tend to shear off the tops of developing hurricanes in the adjacent Atlantic, causing them to abort. El Nino may make an appearance later this year, forecasters say, but the Colorado group predicts that it will not do so in time to affect the hurricane picture.

Other elements include the behavior of stratospheric winds that circle the globe high above the equator and weather features far remote from the Atlantic hurricane belt—things, for example, like the temperature high above Singapore. On balance, the forecasters say, the indicators point to higher-than-average activity this year.

One of the most powerful indicators, according to the new study by Dr. Saunders and Andrew R. Harris, climate scientists at University College London in Britain, is the Atlantic sea-surface temperature. Their statistical analysis found that while most of the relevant factors were indeed favorable for hurricane development in the banner year of 1995, the dominating influence was the unusually warm ocean. The temperature in the region where hurricanes develop was 1.2 degrees Fahrenheit above the 1946-1995 average, a record. The development region was 0.36 of a degree warmer than average last year and is about 0.9 of a degree warmer now. This, said Dr. Saunders, presages another active season. His study appeared in the May 15 issue of the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*.

The researchers suggest that warmer seas cause more water to evaporate from the surface. With evaporation, latent heat is released in the atmosphere, and the researchers believe that this is what imparts more energy to the embryonic storms coming out of Africa, making it more likely that they will develop into hurricanes. "It seems that this is a stronger effect than any other mechanism, like El Nino or the monsoon in the western Sahel," Dr. Saunders said.

The question, he said, is whether the rising sea temperature is a natural expression of the climate system's variability, independent of any influence from a warming atmosphere. Dr. Gray, for his part, says he believes the warmer ocean temperature is "a manifestation of a major change in North Atlantic ocean circulation." Stately currents in the North Atlantic undergo periodic shifts on decadal time scales. Dr. Gray said he believed that a new pattern was in place, and that it was likely to presage a decade or two of above-average hurricane activity.

"This is the greatest fear we have," he said, "that we're entering a new era. I believe we are."

If so, the new Federal study on hurricane damage may offer a preview of what lies ahead. In the study, Dr. Roger Pielke Jr. of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo., and Dr. Christopher Landsea of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's hurricane research division in Miami calculated how much damage would result from past hurricanes if they had occurred in 1995, when the coasts held many more people and much more wealth than earlier.

The calculation, which also accounts for inflation, shows that if the more numerous storms of the very active quarter-century prior to 1970 were to hit the mainland now, each of the storms would cause far more damage than it did back then.

It has been suggested in the past that escalating hurricane damage in more recent decades has resulted from an increase in the number and severity of storms. The Pielke-Landsea analysis found this is not so. In fact, when all hurricane damage was assessed as if it had occurred in 1995, the four biggest hurricanes of the last eight years were no longer the most damaging in history. Andrew, which exacted an all-time record \$26.5 billion in actual damages, was downgraded to second place by a monster that struck Florida and Alabama in 1926. Hugo (1989), Opal (1995) and Fran (1996) slip far down the list.

The analysis, its authors wrote, indicates clearly "that the United States has been fortunate in recent decades with regard to storm losses." Now, they wrote, multibillion-dollar losses may become increasingly frequent, and it may be "only a matter of time" before a single storm exacts \$50 billion in damages.

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF DEDICATION

### HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 1997*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, recently in my district a celebration was held for Cecil Clark of Leesburg, FL on the 25th anniversary of Cecil Clark Chevrolet. I appreciate this opportunity to congratulate Cecil for a quarter century of service to our community.

Fifty years ago Cecil Clark sold his first Chevrolet, along with his first Frigidaire appliance. In 1972, he opened up his own car dealership—Cecil Clark Chevrolet. Over the last 25 years he has sold 25,000 new cars and trucks, and he has sold over 40,000 used vehicles.

His wife Jackie has shared his vision for almost 50 years and has worked with him at his dealership. Now, his son Greg has assumed responsibilities for the dealership as co-owner, and Mr. Clark's daughter, Cindy Clark Brooker, opened her own dealership last year in Wildwood, FL.

Our society is a mobile society, and we are dependent on automobiles. Cecil Clark and his family have been essential in meeting the needs of thousands of people in my district.

Congratulations, Cecil, and my best wishes to you and your family.

## FATHER CUNNINGHAM: PASSION, COURAGE, TENACITY

### HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 1997*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special person—Father William Cunningham—who passed away last week. Detroiters, those in need and Catholics across America have not only lost a kind benefactor and gentle heart, we have lost a hero, friend, and a perfect model of inspiration and hope.

A visionary pragmatist who founded Focus:HOPE, one of the Nation's largest civil rights organizations, Father Cunningham worked tirelessly for more than three decades

building racial harmony and creating jobs in the city of Detroit. Although we have not yet reached his goal, because of his passionate work, relations among our citizens have improved dramatically.

It was a shock to everyone last October to learn that this great man was stricken with cancer, but his courage and tenacity shone bright as the Sun as he fought his deteriorating health to the very end.

His long request to his long-time friend and cofounder of Focus:HOPE Eleanor Josaitis: no plaques, no streets, no buildings named after him, "Just make sure my work continues."

Even during his last breath, this hero to many was still concerned about us—about the future of the city and its people he loved with all his soul.

Focus:HOPE will serve as his lasting legacy. Born out of the ashes of the Detroit riots of 1967, Father Cunningham made his dream of helping the poor a reality. Whether it was food, jobs, or racial harmony, Father Cunningham and Focus:HOPE were on the leading edge, breaking new ground, winning the war on poverty inch by inch.

It was an honor to know such a great man. He was a generous man with a kind heart. His service was to God and his fellow man. He always had a kind word, willing ear, and helpful advice.

Father William Cunningham was a good friend to all he knew and those he didn't know, but could help. He will be missed sorely, but his legacy and spirit will remain ingrained in our souls forever.

## TRIBUTE TO ROZ AND BARNEY COOPERMAN

### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 1997*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we are honored to pay tribute to our dear friends, Roz and Barney Cooperman, who this year are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. On June 29, Roz and Barney will celebrate this special occasion in the company of children—they have five—and grandchildren—they have six. Roz and Barney are wonderful parents who have always placed family above all else.

Roz and Barney met in 1946 while attending the University of California at Berkeley. The next year they got married in Brooklyn; the year after that the couple moved to Los Angeles, where they have lived ever since. Barney went into law practice in 1949, while Roz became a history instructor at Los Angeles City College. In 1952 she left teaching to raise a family.

Almost as long as they have been married Roz and Barney have been involved in community and political affairs. Barney has served on the boards of a public radio station, a teacher-training nursery school and Temple Israel of Hollywood. He also started a leading Democratic club, organized local Democratic nominating conventions and served on the state Democratic Central Committee. In 1980 Barney was appointed to the bench as a superior court judge, in which position he served with great distinction until 1995.